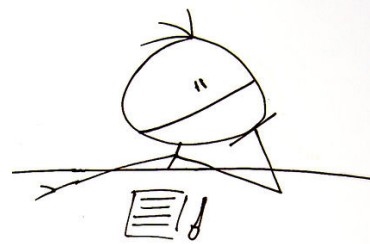


Reasons given by students for not doing homework...
and possible solutions/responses

• **It's boring.. I don't like it....**



- There are things in life that we must do and things we want to do. It isn't true that your life will always be filled with only fun interesting things that you like to do.. life lesson.
- A new study by French researchers found that children who were told learning can be difficult, and that failing is a natural part of the learning process, actually performed better on tests than kids not given such reassurances. "We focused on a widespread cultural belief that equates academic success with a high level of competences and failure with intellectual inferiority", said Frederique Autin, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Poitiers. "By being obsessed with success, students are afraid to fail, so they are reluctant to take difficult steps to master new material."
- Sometimes learning can be difficult or even a little boring, but it is needed all the same.
- When you say « boring », do you really mean « difficult » or « frustrating »?
- When something is really important and necessary, is « it's boring » really a valid reason to not do it?
- Do homework 15 or 30 minutes (avoid procrastination), then do something that you like to do.. as a reward (make a list of what motivates you).. then return to the work after the break. (You only get the reward if you do the work!!)
- Think of the advantages.. better mark.. better understanding.. you and your parents will be proud.. be positive.. positive thinking can improve Math performance
- Work with a friend (someone calm who will actually work with you.. not someone who will distract you)
- Do the most difficult parts first.

- **I had an activity after school.. I'm busy.. I'm tired.. I have lots of projects in other classes.. I only do Math homework sometimes if I have the time...**

→ Could you do the homework at lunch, in class, before school, on the bus, in the car....?

→ Developing time management is a very important skill in school, in your job, in life

- **It's difficult to work at my house (I am preoccupied or distracted)**

→ Could you do the homework at lunch, in class, before school.. could you change the situation at your home.. could you find a place without distractions (turn off phone, texting device, telephone, computer, video games..)

→ Organize a system or schedule and try to follow it every day (when possible) of when to do homework.. etc.

→ Just start. Probably you will be able to continue if you just take the step that is sometimes the most difficult... getting started.

- **I forgot that there was homework. I forgot my homework/ text at school**

→ Use an agenda (or other system) - look at it before you leave after school to make sure you have everything.. look at it again when you get home.. and again once you think you have finished everything

→ becoming organised is an important skill for school, work, life

- **I don't know how to do it.. I don't understand..**

→ try to start your homework in class, before leaving, to be certain that you will be able to finish at home

→ try to do homework at lunchtime in room 14 Tuesday/Thursday; room 23 everyday; room 43 on even days.. if you get stuck, someone there can help you

→ If you find it difficult.. that is all the more reason to work at it!! It won't become easier by you avoiding it.

I understand the skill and I don't find it helps to do homework.. it's a waste of time if we have already done it in class.. why practice.. I do a little in class if there is time (and nothing else to do) and I don't finish at home; why bother if usually it doesn't even get checked and recorded as done?

→Did you really do it in class.. or did you just watch when the teacher did the work?

→Doing Math homework gives you the chance to apply the skills that you learned in class.. and to verify that you really know how to do this type of question (and therefore you must correct your work to verify that you know how to do the work **CORRECTLY**)

→Doing the work yourself is often more difficult than you thought.. when you were just watching the teacher demonstrate

→Doing Math homework reinforces that you learned in class, that you understand the concepts, and that you can use them

→Doing Math homework helps with retention (you know how to do the question today.. but will you remember in two weeks when it is on the test?)

→The teacher usually demonstrates the questions that are the most basic. Math homework give you the changes to apply these basic skills to questions that are more complicated, challenging, and advanced

→After you have done a couple of questions to practice the skill to help you understand, doing a few more questions will help to solidify the skill for you so that you can do the question quickly and competently.. without having to spend a long time trying to figure out what to do.

→ Practicing Math is like practicing anything. It helps you learn, improve, refine, discover what you're doing wrong, get faster... become more competent. When you practice, you get "good" at it.. and then often find that you now enjoy it! We usually like doing what we're good at.

→Scientific studies show that doing homework can have a significant impact on your Math test marks - that's where your homework gets noted...!! →Developing self discipline and responsibility are important skills for school, work, life.

Math Study Skills

Active Study vs. Passive Study

Be **actively** involved in managing the learning process, the mathematics and your study time.

- Take responsibility for studying, recognizing what you do and don't know, and knowing how to get your Instructor to help you with what you don't know
- Attend class every day and take complete notes. Instructors formulate test questions based on material and examples covered in class as well as those in the text.
- Be an active participant in the classroom. Get ahead in the book; try to work some of the problems before they are covered in class. Anticipate what the Instructor's next step will be.
- Ask questions in class! There are usually other students wanting to know the answers to the same questions you have.
- Go to help hours and ask questions. The Instructor will be pleased to see that you are interested, and you will be actively helping yourself.
- Good study habits throughout the semester make it easier to study for tests.

Studying Math is Different from Studying Other Subjects

- Math is learned by **doing** problems. Do the homework. The problems help you learn the formulas and techniques you do need to know, as well as improve your problem-solving prowess.
- A word of warning: Each class builds on the previous ones, all semester long. You must keep up with the Instructor: attend class, read the text and do homework every day. Falling a day behind puts you at a disadvantage. Falling a week behind puts you in deep trouble.
- A word of encouragement: Each class builds on the previous ones, all semester long. You're always reviewing previous material as you do new material. Many of the ideas hang together. Identifying and learning the key concepts means you don't have to memorize as much.

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. "Success in Mathematics." Saint Louis University <online 6/11/1997>.